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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
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THE 85TH CONGRESS

The first session of the 85th Congress is heading for adjournment amid charges that it is a do-nothing Congress. A goal for adjournment the last week in August may or may not be made.

Congress was held up by the civil rights fight, of course, which consumed more than five weeks in the upper legislative body, and may consume more time before adjournment is reached.

This is the first session of the 85th Congress, and legislation not finally acted upon the first session remains exactly where it was in the congressional pipeline until the second session, which will begin next January. If not acted upon at the second session, bills in the pipeline die.

The 85th Congress has talked much about economy, done a little about it, passed a limited number of bills, written the first civil rights bill in seventy-five years, and voted for salary increases in some cases.

Altogether, it has done little sensational, although the battle on civil rights was a drastic one and highlight of the session. The real battle will probably come next year, because congressional elections are scheduled and there will be heavy pressure for tax cuts, pay raises, and perhaps many other controversial items.

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HOPE FOR HOME-BUILDING

Housing Administrator Albert M. Cole recently said that prospective home-buyers or builders in small communities should not have trouble in obtaining financing for their homes. He said they could make use of facilities offered by the Voluntary Home Mortgage Credit Program.

Since this program is not too well known, we will outline some of Mr. Cole's suggestions. Certainly the reduction in home-building is a serious turn in the economy and if the Housing Administrator is correct in his analysis, his announcement is of great importance.

Cole says that in spite of tight money, the new five and one-fourth per cent interest rate on Federal Housing Administration loans is attractive enough to enable the voluntary program to obtain private financing to meet the needs of qualified borrowers. He notes the availability of funds goes hand-in-hand with lower down payments recently voted in Congress.

Moreover, he said that these factors can result in quite a spurt in home-building in small communities. For that to happen, home-buyers and builders will have to be aware of and take advantage of the Voluntary Home Mortgage Credit Program.

Our nation has undergone a tremendous cycle of home-building in recent years. The end is not in sight. But sound financing is vital to keep the economy sound.

Washington Notes

G. I. HOME LOANS

The Veterans Administration has announced that G. I. home loan activity continued in July the down ward trend that began last year. Only 20,511 home loan applications were received by the VA in the month—the lowest for any July since World War II. G. I. housing starts were 12,329 in July, down 5 per cent from June.

CANCER DETECTION

A newly developed electronic machine, the cytoanalyzer — an automatic optical electronic machine —is expected to speed detection of cancer of the uterus — the second largest cause of cancer deaths among women. The cytoanalyzer is designed to detect abnormal cells by microscopically scanning slides bearing specimen smears.

D. E. W. ACCEPTED

The U. S. Government has formally taken possession of the $500,000,000 Distant Early Warning line. On August 13, the Western Electric Company, prime contractor in construction of the 3,000-mile line across the rim of the continent, turned it over to Brig.-Gen. Stanley Wray, Chief of the U. S. Air Force's electric defense system, in behalf of the Air Force.

KNOW THE WEATHER

By E. H. Sims

Does weather ever remain the same? In hot summer spells is the air over your town or city the same air that was there yesterday, or the day before?

Weather is never the same. The same conditions may exist, but the eather you are experiencing today —the gases that are above you— have probably come from hundreds of miles away in the past twenty-four hours.

In the United States the movement of weather is generally from west to east and seldom does a time come when this trend is not in effect. The air you breathe today was not in your vicinity yesterday. Experts have estimated that it usually was several hundred miles westward yesterday.

This does not mean that clear air hundreds of miles to the west cannot become moist or cloudy by the time it reaches you. Local conditions sometimes enerate clouds and precipitation, but usually on a local scale. In general, if the air is clear to the west, it will be clear when it reaches you, and if rainy, it will bring clouds to your area as it passes over — though clouds sometimes dissipate as they move eastward, and the experts still cannot always predict these changes.

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TRUMPETER SWANS

For the first time in about thirty years, two trumpeter swans are on display in the Washington Zoo. They are being loaned to the zoo by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and were captured during their flightless stage at the Red Rock Lakes Migratory Water Fowl Refuge in Montana.

TO BAN 'STUNTS'

Senator Prescott Bush, Connecticut Republican, has proposed a rule to prohibit members of the Senate from pointing to the galleries and introducing visiting stage and screen personalities, high school classes, bands and constituents, as "publicity stunts." It's similar to a rule now enforced in the House of Representatives.

HOSPITAL COSTS

Over-all hospital costs have gone up 132 per cent since 1945, compared with a rise of 37.6 per cent in the consumer price index. The average hospital bill has increased from $88.85 to $181.13 in the same period. Daily rates average $24.15 at present, against $10.04 in 1945.

EMPLOYMENT

Total employment in the United States rose to a high of 67,200,000 in July, 700,000 above the record set in June, according to a joint announcement by the Commerce and Labor Departments. Unemployment dropped to 3,000,000—a decline of 300,000 from June.

NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT

A bill to authorize construction of a new national monument in Washington, symbolizing the ideals of democracy" has been approved by the House Interior Committee. The monument, which would cost an estimated $23,000,000, would be built with funds received in public subscription.

NEW HURRICANE

The U. S. Weather announced it was establish work of hurricane warn manned by squad stretching from Bermu to Nantucket, Mass. The will supplement the lished stations and will the gaps in the power warning system.

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APPOMATTOX SCHOOLS START NEXT WEEK

We welcome you Teachers and Students back for another Session.

Every one is getting ready for the first big event of the Fall Season, the opening of the Schools on September 4. It is a great day in every family where children are enrolling for the first time, and it is a big week in the community life of Appomattox, as we join hands in welcoming teachers and pupils back for another session.

Right now we want to impress upon each teacher and pupil that you are welcome in Appomattox. We bespeak for you a happy and profitable year. There is no easy road to knowledge, and we appreciate the hard work that goes into the making of a successful school session.

Appomattox is justly proud of its school facilities. Rapid progress has been made in recent years in building a modern educational plant. The sacrifices of the tax-payers is more than justified as the schools do their work of training our future citizens.

Schools are not something to be taken for granted. Education is a major enterprise. The businessman, the farmer, the worker all have a part in maintaining the educational effort.

When you patronize home businesses, you are supporting your schools and all your local institutions. Community progress is a team effort. Local business and local payrolls look to graduates for employees. We know the vaue of good training, and know that our schools are trying to prepare our young people for a major role in our community. We who serve you today were the students of yesterday.

So, here's a salute to the opening of schools. Call on us to serve you and do come to see us!

In connection with the opening of schools, we remind you that we have no children to spare: don't you drive with extra care, especially when many precious children are using our highways and streets!

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